

---

## *A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland*

---

gave him its protection and restored him to his home and occupation. A knowledge of the facts of his life shows that the misunderstanding of his political character which existed among many of his contemporaries may well be traced to his own tactlessness and to his lack of that higher form of humor whereby a man is enabled to see his own actions in just perspective; a characteristic which in positive terms may be described as the possession of that mental and spiritual defect known as obstinacy. It does not commend him to us any the less, however, when we learn that these characteristics of tactlessness and obstinacy were brought out chiefly in situations into which he had been drawn by loyalty to his friends, by refusal to pay homage to popular idols and by a willingness to fight and to suffer for the liberty of the press.

William Goddard was born in New London, Connecticut, in the year 1740,<sup>1</sup> the son of Giles Goddard, physician and postmaster in that town, and his wife, Sarah Updike, who was the daughter of Lodowick Updike and the representative of an old Rhode Island family.<sup>2</sup> It was probably in 1755, two years before the death of his father, that young William Goddard was apprenticed to James Parker, who in this year, in partnership with John Holt, had established at New Haven a newspaper known as the *Connecticut Gazette*. In this place, it is significant to notice, the two printers acted for some years as postmaster and deputy postmaster respectively. Parker soon returned to New York whither in 1760 Holt followed him. As James Parker and Company they established on July 31, 1760, the *New-York Gazette and Weekly Post-Boy*.<sup>3</sup> It is probable that young William Goddard served with these eminent printers in both New Haven and New York. Their partnership was dissolved on May 2, 1762, and at about the same time Goddard's articles of apprenticeship expired. Not much more than a month after this date he appeared in Providence, Rhode Island, as the proprietor of the first printing office to be set up in that city.

In his venture as the inaugurator of printing in Providence in the month of July 1762, as in all of his ventures while she lived, Goddard had the support of that excellent woman, his mother, who in this instance advanced from her own purse three hundred pounds for the establishment of his office. He began his operations in the usual humble fashion of the colonial printer; his earliest recorded publications were a broadside in which was proclaimed

<sup>1</sup> *The Op Dyck Genealogy*, by C. W. Opdyke. N. Y. 1889.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Paltsits, V. H., "John Holt, Printer and Postmaster," in *Bulletin of the New York Public Library*, September 20, 1920, gives a concise statement of the relations of Parker and Holt and prints a number of interesting letters and documents relating to Holt and his public and private life.